

Amendments to the Specification are as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 6 and ending on page 2, line 25 as follows:

The detection means described above includes a conversion portion for converting rocking motion of an operation lever to rotary motion of two rotary bodies orthogonally intersecting each other, and a detection portion such as a rotary encoder for converting the rotation amounts of these two rotary bodies and their rotary directions into electric signals. The actuator comprises a motor, or the like. The control means stores the detection signal outputted from the detection portion of the detection means, outputs a desired control signal to the actuator on the basis of the detection signal and displays an operation position (cursor) of the operation lever on a monitor provided to an instrument panel inside the car. The control signal is a signal corresponding to an operation feeling imparted to the operation lever, and the kind of the signal includes generation of vibration and a change of operation force. Incidentally, an upper end of the operation lever protrudes from an external decoration surface of a center console box, or the like, inside the car, and a plurality of key switches for selecting functions of various apparatuses displayed on the monitor is arranged on this external decoration surface.

Please delete line 24 on page 3 as follows:

~~SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION~~

Please insert line 16 on page 4 as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 3 and ending on page 7, line 4 as follows:

Figs. 7A, 7B, 7C and 7D ~~are is an~~ explanatory views useful for explaining an operation example of the operation knob;

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 11 and ending on page 7, line 12 as follows:

Figs. 11A and 11B ~~are is a~~ perspective views showing a modified example of the operation knob.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 20 and ending on page 21, line 12 as follows:

The operation knob 4 is fitted from outside to the accommodation portion 3a of the operation lever 3. The operation knob 4 is allowed to reciprocate in an axial direction of the operation lever 3 by using the accommodation portion 3a as its slide surface. However, when a stopper protuberance 4a of the operation knob 4 is fitted into an engagement hole 3b of the accommodation portion 3a, the moving distance of the operation knob 4 in the axial direction is limited to a predetermined range and the operation knob 4 is prevented from falling off from the operation lever 3, too. The operation knob 4 has therein a pusher 4b. The pusher 4b is interposed between the stems 14a and 15a of the first and second push switches 14 and 15. Therefore, when the pusher 4b receives uniform urging force in the vertical direction from the return springs built in the first and second push switches 14 and 15, the operation knob 4 is stably held at a neutral position under a non-load state. When the operation knob 4 is pushed with the neutral position as the reference, the pusher 4b turns ON the first push switch 14. When pPush switch 14 and the operation knob 4 are is pulled with the neutral position as the reference, the pusher 4b turns ON the second push switch 15.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 13 and ending on page 10, line 21 as follows:

Referring to Fig. 6, the operation knob 4 includes a large diameter portion 17 positioned outside the accommodation portion 3a of the operation lever 3 and having a columnar shape, and a protuberance portion 18 protruding upward from the center of the large diameter portion 17. A constriction 18a is formed at a part of the protuberance 18. Knurling 17a is disposed on ~~defined round~~ an outer peripheral surface of the large diameter

portion 17. Knurling 18b is defined as a roughened surface on a spherical ceiling surface of the protuberance 18.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 3 and ending on page 13, line 26 as follows:

When the operation lever 3 is rocked in the desired direction in this way and the cursor 20 is moved in the direction of the kind menu 19a representing "AUDIO", for example, the control unit 5 receives the detection signals outputted from both encoders 12 and 13 and outputs the first control signal corresponding to the detection signals to both motors 10 and 11. In consequence, the desired operation feeling can be imparted to the operation lever 3. For example, the resistance operation force in the rocking direction of the operation lever 3 is imparted when the cursor 20 reaches the range of the kind menu 19a, and the operation force for promoting the rocking direction of the operation lever 3 is imparted when the cursor 20 enters the range of the kind menu 19a. Consequently, the operator keeping his fingers put on the operation knob 4 can know through blind-touch the rocking operation of the operation lever 3 in the intended direction. In the case of this example, the operator can know through ~~the with~~ the click feeling that the cursor 20 reaches the range of the kind menu 19a and can then acquire the feeling that the cursor 20 is pulled towards the center of the kind menu 19a. Incidentally, when the display color of the kind menu 19a is changed in addition to the application of the external force to the operation lever 3 when the cursor 20 reaches the range of the menu 19a, the operator can know both haptically and visually that the operation lever 3 is rocked in the intended direction.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 2 and ending on page 16, line 21 as follows:

In the force sense imparting type input apparatus according to this embodiment, the first push switch 14 is turned ON when the operation knob 4 fitted to the end part of the operation lever 3 is pushed, and the second push switch 15 is turned ON when the operation knob 4 is pulled. Therefore, the operations of selecting and deciding the menu or canceling the menu can be

continuously conducted through the rocking operation of the operation lever 3 and the push/pull operation of the operation knob 4, and maneuverability can be remarkably improved. The operation knob 4 has the large diameter portion 17 and the protuberance portion 18, and the constriction 18a is defined at a part of the protuberance portion 18. Therefore, the operator can easily conduct the push/pull operation by nipping the large diameter portion 17 or the constriction 18a of the protuberance portion 18 with two fingers, or putting the finger onto the ceiling surface of the protuberance portion 18.

Furthermore, because knurling 17a and 18b is disposed ~~defined~~ on the outer peripheral surface of the large diameter portion 17 and on the ceiling surface of the protuberance portion 18, slip of the fingers can be prevented and in this point, too, maneuverability can be improved.